

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02910 071135Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 /087 W
-----071140Z 072135 /10

P R 071004Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2997
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCER
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2910

LONDON PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY
SUBJECT: MAY 6 SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUE HIGHLIGHT PREPARATIONS
FOR CARTER-ASAD MEETING

1. NEWS OF CARTER-ASAD MEETING SHARED TOP BILLING WITH
PRESS CONFERENCE ASAD GRANTED AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS
TRAVELING WITH KREISKY. THAWRA HEADLINED: "PRES. ASAD
DECLARES TO AUSTRIAN INFORMATION DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING
KREISKY: 'IMPLEMENTATION OF JUST PEACE REQUIRES
COOPERATION OF ALL EFFORTS. I WILL DISCUSS WITH CARTER
THINGS USEFUL TO ADVANCING PEACE IN THE REGION.'"

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02910 071135Z

2. IN HIS PUBLISHED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM
AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS, ASAD BROKE NO NEW GROUND
BUT REITERATED SYRIA'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT NARROW
DEMILITARIZED ZONES IN A PEACE SETTLEMENT IF THEY
LOCATED ON BOTH SIDES OF LINE. IN DISCUSSING ME
PEACE EFFORTS, ASAD SAID: "IT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT
ME PROBLEM NEEDS PRIMARILY THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO

LIVE IN THIS AREA AND THEIR DETERMINATION. IT ALSO NEEDS THE EFFORTS OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE TWO SUPERPOWERS. IF THESE EFFORTS ARE POOLED THEY MIGHT LEAD TO ESTABLISHMENT OF JUST PEACE IN THE AREA. AS FOR MY MEETING WITH PRES. CARTER... (HE) IS SEARCHING FOR ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE PUSH TO MOMENTUM TOWARD JUST SOLUTION IN ME."

3. ARTICLES CONTINUED TO DISCUSS TALKS IN EXPECTANT TERMS. PRESS NOTED OBSERVERS WERE CHARACTERIZING PREPARATIONS FOR MEETING AS "EXTRAORDINARY, AND WERE ATTACHING GREAT IMPORTANCE TO IT CONSIDERING IT COMES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC MOVES PRES. ASAD HAS MADE LATELY." THEY FURTHER SAW THAT MEETING WOULD HAVE "SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE" BECAUSE ASAD'S LEADERSHIP HAS GIVEN "WEIGHT" TO SYRIA IN ADDITION TO WHICH "PRES. ASAD ENJOYS PAN-ARAB PRESTIGE WHICH MAKES PRES. CARTER ATTENTIVE TO HIS VIEWPOINTS AND POSITIONS. PRES. ASAD IS CAPABLE OF EXPRESSING THE CURRENT ARAB POSITION." ARTICLE CLAIMED CHOICE OF GENEVA HAS SEVERAL IMPORTANT MEANINGS INCLUDING ASAD'S LACK OF HESITATION TO TAKE ROAD OF PEACE AS LONG AS IT LEADS TO ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS EXISTING PRINCIPLED POLICY, I.E., FULL WITHDRAWAL AND RECOVERY PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

4. EDITORIALS ON MEETING CONTINUED TO PLAY SAME THEMES REGARDING TALKS: - CARTER'S STATEMENTS ENCOURAGING BUT INSUFFICIENT AND REQUIRE FURTHER DEFINITION AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02910 071135Z

CLARIFICATION; -- U.S. CAPABLE OF EXERTING GREAT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL; -- ARABS CANNOT ACCEPT STATUS QUO. NEW TWIST, NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN WAS ASSERTION THAT PRES. CARTER WAS CORRECT IN SUGGESTING IT MIGHT BE BETTER NOT TO CONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE IF GOOD CHANCE FOR SUCCESS DID NOT EXIST BUT, COLUMNIST ADDED, SUCH A DECLARATION BY U.S. PRESIDENT, EVEN THOUGH CORRECT, MIGHT ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO MAINTAIN "ITS STUBBORN POSITION ON PEACE."

5. COMMENT. OVERALL THRUST SYRIAN MEDIA CAMPAIGN IS TO BOLSTER ASAD'S IMAGE AS STATESMAN ABLE TO DEAL FROM BASES OF STRENGTH AND EQUALITY WITH SUPERPOWERS AND TO PROD PRES. CARTER TO MORE FULLY DEFINE U.S. POSITION ON BASIC ASPECTS OF ME PEACE SETTLEMENT DURING THEIR TALKS IN GENEVA. PELLETTREAU

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PEACE PLANS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC02910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770161-0086
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770582/aaaactdl.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59a00799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2609314
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 6 SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUE HIGHLIGHT PREPARATIONS FOR CARTER-ASAD MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY), (ASAD, HAFIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59a00799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009